(e) whether any financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised National Road Safety Policy aims to bring down the number of fatalities in road accidents to about 12 per 10,000 vehicles and the number of road accidents to about 50 per 10,000 vehicles by the year 2001 AD. The Council has also recommended some amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to enhance road safety.

(c) The legislation will be introduced shortly.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Road Breakages in National Highways No. 39 And 53

714. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road breakages in the National Highways No. 39 and 53 in the area of Nagaland and Manipur leading to Imphal in the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the number of vehicles damaged and drivers lost their lives and other incidents etc, as a result thereof; and

(c) measures taken up and to be taken to save life and property from these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Number of road breakages resulting in road blockage for periods lasting one day or more in the States of Manipur and Nagaland are as under:

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NH-39	—	—	1
NH-53	2	1	4

(b) National Highway-wise accident statistics are not collected. However statewise accident statistics are given below:

	Manipur			Nagaland		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
Accident	156	163	161	58	73	22
Persons killed	59	32	43	31	50	15
Persons injured	253	295	294	130	76	63

(c) Road blocks are cleared promptly and restoration works taken up immediately.

Additional National Highways in Manipur

715. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Manipur have submitted a proposal for opening a new National Highways in addition to the existing 39 and 53 National Highways;

(b) the steps taken up by the Central Government to the said proposal; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allotted for the National ways leading to the capitals of the North-East States specially Imphal where the Railway Heads are not touched in the Ninth five years plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The declaration of new National Highways will depend upon approval of Planning Commission, Ministry of De-

fence, Ministry of Finance, etc. and resources being made available to this Ministry.

(c) The 9th Plan is yet to be finalised. It may be stated that funds, for the current year, for the North-Eastern States alongwith other States, will be decided after Demands for Grants are passed by the Parliament.

Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee

716. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report to his Ministry;

(b) what are salient features of the report; and

(c) what strategy/scheme has been chalked out to mobilise private funds from domestic as well as international market for national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee Report are as under:—

(i) Master Plan for Highway Development.
(ii) Highway Policy.
(iii) Strategy for Highway Development.
(iv) Maintenance and Management of Highway.
(v) Assessment of Funds.
(vi) Private Sector Involvement.
(vii) Highway Improvements on User Pays basis.
(viii) New Sources of Funds.
(ix) Institutional needs.
(x) Need for Comprehensive Guidelines.

(c) Following are the major steps taken to mobilise private funds:—

(i) Road sector has been declared as an Industry.
(ii) Procedure for land acquisition/environmental clearances has been simplified.
(iii) Detailed guidelines for BOT projects issued.
(iv) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), an autonomous body, operationalised and authorised to take up BOT projects. NHAI can participate in such projects by contributing upto 30% of equity.
(v) Capital subsidy by Government/NHAI upto 40% of the project can be provided for improving financial viability of the project, on case to case basis.
(vi) Treating highway and housing and other development activities forming integral part of highway project as a part of road infrastructure.
(vii) Duty free import of sophisticated equipment for highway projects.
(viii) Corporate tax exemption of 100% in the first five year and 30% concession in the next 5 years, to be availed of in 20 years.
(ix) Automatic approval for foreign upto 74% and upto 100% on case to case basis allowed.

Development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Cochin Port

717. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Trust made any proposal for the development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal for the mothership to come to Cochin;

(b) if so, steps taken so far; and

(c) whether any attempt made to attract foreign collaboration for this new port development project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Cochin Port Trust has invited Expressions of Interest from domestic and foreign Port Developers/Operators